

IV. TRAVEL DEFICIENCY ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM

GENERAL:

This chapter presents an analysis of the ability of the existing street system to serve the area's travel desires. Emphasis is placed not only on detecting the deficiencies, but on understanding their cause. Travel deficiencies may be localized and the result of substandard highway design, inadequate pavement width, or intersection controls. Alternately, the underlying problem may be caused by a system deficiency such as a need for construction of missing links.

EXISTING TRAVEL PATTERNS:

An indication of the adequacy of the existing street system is a comparison of traffic volumes versus the ability of the streets to move traffic. In an urban area, a street's ability to move traffic is generally controlled by the spacing of major intersections, access control, width of pavement, and the traffic control devices (such as signals) utilized.

For the definition of **capacity** and **level of service (LOS)** as it relates to traffic operation, please refer to Chapter 2 of the supplemental report, "Generalized Chapters for Thoroughfare Plan Reports".

EXISTING MAJOR STREET SYSTEM:

The Cities of Rockingham and Hamlet are similar to many urban areas with a grid system at the center of the City and radials accessing the planning area (for additional discussion, refer to Chapter 1, of the supplemental report). US 74 is a primary facility passing through the planning area. Its function serves two purposes. US 74 carries commercial traffic as well as intrastate travel generated by the following radials; US 1 (carrying southbound traffic from Southern Pines and northbound traffic from South Carolina); US 220 (carrying southbound traffic from Asheboro to US 74 at Rockingham); NC 177 (serves primarily Hamlet by collecting traffic from US 1 from the north and Wallace, and South Carolina from the south). Two other facilities, NC 38 and NC 381 feed off of US 74 at Hamlet and carry traffic to-and-from South Carolina.

The attraction between the two Cities of Rockingham and Hamlet creates a very unique traffic condition. This "bipolar" attraction is formed by local trips being generated for work, shopping, and recreational purposes. Although most of this traffic is facilitated by US 74, Airport Road, Beaunit Avenue, Hylan Drive, and Country Home Road provide additional local service.